

Anti-US Views Are Spreading Among Greeks

Anti-American sentiment in Greece has become widespread since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. It appears to be growing in direct proportion to Greek and Greek Cypriot setbacks on the battlefield and at the conference table. This feeling is reportedly shared not only by traditionally anti-American leftist circles, but also by normally pro-American right and center-right politicians and military men.

The anti-Americanism stems primarily from the Greek belief that the US abandoned Greece in its hour of need and "tilted" toward the Turks. The belief has been nurtured by the Greek press, by American press accounts, and by favorable references to the US role by Turkish leaders. Greeks tend to believe that the "American factor" is the principal determinant of events in the area.

Many Greeks are probably convinced that the US could have deterred the Turkish invasion and even now has the power to stop the fighting and secure an equitable settlement. Its failure to do so leads them to believe there is some kind of nefarious deal between Washington and Ankara, perhaps a pledge of indirect US support for Turkey in exchange for a reimposition of the poppy growing ban.

A less immediate but still significant factor in anti-American sentiment is the widely held belief that the military regimes that ruled Greece between 1967 and July of this year were imposed and supported by the US—a belief that is being cultivated by the Greek press and fed by similar comments in US newspapers.

The first significant official manifestation of anti-Americanism is Greece's termination of its military role in NATO, which Greek Minister of Public Order Gikas described as the first "indirect slap" at the allies and "particularly the United States."

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Minister Karamanlis on August 14 made clear to his senior advisers that he was displeased that US policy was too evenhanded toward Cyprus, and stated that the government and armed forces of Greece shared this view. Karamanlis said that unless the US took strong public steps within 48 hours to stop Turkish aggression on Cyprus, Washington will lose the support, understanding, and close traditional alliance of Greece.

A high ranking foreign ministry official that NATO

facilities at Souda Bay and Namsi will have to go and that all alliance facilities in Greece will be subject to review. For the time being, however, it does not appear that bilateral arrangements outside the NATO framework, such as homeporting, will be affected. Greek Foreign Minister Mavros denied yesterday that he had made any statements about an alleged decision by his government to expel US forces from Greece, according to a press report. Mavros said that US bases in Greece are protected by bilateral agreements, and expressed doubt that such agreements can be broken.

On the non-governmental level, anti-Americanism has thus far been limited to newspaper editorials and one demonstration involving about a thousand students. The government-controlled radio and television networks reportedly have not joined this campaign, so it probably does not yet have official sanction.

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Greek leftist leader Andreas Papandreou told journalists in Canada yesterday that he intends to return to Greece "immediately." He can be expected to exploit the anti-US climate.

Anti-Americanism is likely to result in leftist gains at the polls should the Karamanlis government hold elections as promised. The 24-percent vote the left polled in 1958—the highest it has ever received—was attributed in part to public disenchantment with the West over Cyprus.

Anti-American feelings are likely to continue and increase in direct proportion to Greek frustration over Cyprus unless Turkey eventually agrees to significant concessions attributable directly to US pressure. In the meantime, Greece probably will look to Europe, and particularly to Britain and France, for support.

Even if the US fails to wrest enough concessions from Turkey to placate the Greeks, American influence and prestige could probably be at least partially restored if the US supports Athens in the ongoing controversy over exploration rights in the Aegean—a dispute which is sure to re-emerge once the Cyprus crisis eases.

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